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## The Council of Seventy.

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BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 14, 1902.

Two years ago a *Bible Study Sunday* was announced by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE. So great was the enthusiasm with which the day was observed in its first and second year that it now needs no introduction to the public. It can be called an established "special day," based upon such sound principles as (1) that Bible study is a legitimate part of the work of the church, (2) that it should be guided directly or indirectly by the pastor, (3) that it should have an opportunity to progress systematically through the church year, beginning in the early autumn, when all the other church activities are taking form, having with them an equal chance for success.

*Demands of the plan.*—The plan is exceedingly simple. The pastor of a church wishing to co-operate in the observance of the day promises to preach upon the chosen date, at his chief service, a sermon upon some phase of the subject, "Bible Study in its Relation to the Life and Work of the Church and of the Individual Christian." He may further promise to make an active effort to enlist his people in the systematic study of the Bible, either in organized groups or individually. This is a promise which any minister of the gospel will feel justified in making, unless some local reasons render it in his judgment unwise.

*The results of the day as observed in past years.*—The day was first observed in September, 1900, in nine hundred churches. In September, 1901, two thousand churches joined in the movement. This in itself was a great result, but the real good accomplished was in the wave of enthusiasm for Bible study which spread over many of the congregations listening to the sermons delivered. Ten thousand persons have each year since enrolled themselves under the instruction of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, and many more than this number have pursued courses of study issued by their denominational organizations. The demand for systematic courses has tripled, and the day seems near when no others will find acceptance. The hundreds of pastors who have themselves led classes claim almost without exception (1) that the Bible class has united pastor and people

in the closer relation of teacher and pupil ; (2) that in the church as a whole interest in the Bible has deepened and increased ; (3) that this new interest has affected the prayer-meeting, bringing out new material and freshening the old ; (4) that the standard of instruction in the Sunday school has been visibly raised. These are but general statements ; far stronger ones concerning specially successful work in individual fields could easily be made. These results have not been obtained without earnest and persistent work by the co-operating pastors, but the service is a pleasure where, as in most cases, it has been met more than half way by the people. No pastor can know what the responses in his particular field will be until he has tried the experiment for himself. To put the conditions to the test seems a plain duty.

*Dates for 1902, September 14 and September 28.*—Two dates are set for the observance next autumn : September 14 and September 28, the latter for the city churches alone. It has seemed best to make this distinction, since city churches do not reassemble as early as those in the country. These dates are not arbitrary, and can be changed within reasonable limits to suit local conditions.

*Standard to be reached in 1902.*—Since in 1901 the number of pastors observing Bible Study Sunday was double that of 1900, it is very proper that the number to be aimed at in 1902 should double that of 1901. This makes it necessary to secure the co-operation of 4,000 pastors. The promise card to be signed by all who wish to co-operate *requires* only a promise to observe the day by a sermon upon an appropriate topic. Opportunity is further given upon the card, however, for a promise to attempt the organization of church classes.

*In issuing this call the INSTITUTE desires expressly to state that the movement represents all Bible study, not that of any denomination or school of interpretation. It stipulates no special books or study material. Every minister is urged to observe the day, and to see that classes are organized, the particular course of study and the manner of its pursuit being left to his own discretion. The INSTITUTE will, however, be glad to send to any minister who wishes to introduce its courses, full material for examination in advance.*

*Special order of service and sermon outlines.*—A new special order of service will be supplied each co-operating pastor. A new series of suggestive outlines for sermons will also be provided. These outlines, as last year, will be prepared by famous preachers and teachers from both sides of the ocean. For the benefit of those who wish to give

instructive addresses upon the history or literature of the Bible, lists of helpful books will accompany the outlines. The Order of Service and the outlines will appear in the BIBLICAL WORLD for August and September, and will be distributed in reprints after each issue to all who have signed the promise card.

*When and how to co-operate.*—Such a movement is destined to increase in extent and effectiveness each year. To join in it is simply to show one's appreciation of the needs of the times and a desire to meet them so far as may be. This can be done by three steps :

1. Pledge your own name immediately, thus adding the weight of "I have done so" to anything which you may say upon the subject. (See advertising pages for blank form.)

2. See that an opportunity to sign the promise card is presented to every minister of your acquaintance.

3. Keep the day in your own mind and in the minds of your people, so that each may be ready when the time comes to embrace with enthusiasm the opportunity to enter upon or to continue systematic Bible study in one form or another.

This call is issued by the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY, on behalf of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE. (Address Hyde Park, Chicago, Ill.)

JOHN HENRY BARROWS,

*President of the Council.*

WILLIAM R. HARPER,

*Principal of the Institute.*

CHICAGO, June 1, 1902.

#### WORK OF THE COUNCILORS IN SUMMER SCHOOLS.

The biblical work offered at the various summer schools and assemblies throughout the country is year by year increasing in quantity and improving in quality. The members of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY take a large share in this summer work. The following partial schedule of engagements to be filled by members of the COUNCIL in the summer of 1902 will indicate this. In a large proportion of the schools the work is affiliated with the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

At Asheville, N. C., June 14-22, Professor Edward I. Bosworth, of Oberlin, will give a course on the "Teaching of Jesus and His Apostles," in connection with the Students' Conference of Southern Colleges.

At Bay View, Mich., July 16-31, Professor George L. Robinson, of McCormick Theological Seminary, will give daily book studies from the Old Testament. He will also give an illustrated lecture upon "The Bible and Modern Discoveries." At the same assembly, July 31-August 13, Rev. T. G. Soares, of Oak Park, Ill., will give a series of studies in the life of Christ. Dr. Soares is one of those recently selected for associate membership in the COUNCIL.

At Chautauqua, N. Y., July 6-27, Professor Lincoln Hulley, of Bucknell University, will give daily class work in "The Minor Prophets." He will conduct a Sunday morning hour on "The Wisdom Books." During July 28-August 18, Principal G. M. Grant of Queen's College, Kingston, Ont., will give daily studies in the New Testament.

At the University of Chicago, June 17-August 31, the following members of the COUNCIL will be in residence, and will give courses: President William R. Harper, five courses in Hebrew and the Old Testament; Professor Ira M. Price, three courses in Hebrew and the Old Testament; Professor George S. Goodspeed, one course in Old Testament history and one in the history of the ancient East; Professor H. L. Willett, a course in Isaiah, chaps. 40-66; Professor James Breasted, one course in Arabic and two in Egyptian; Professor Ernest D. Burton, four courses in the gospels and the epistles; Professor Shailer Mathews, two courses in the New Testament; Professor Clyde W. Votaw, two courses in the New Testament; Dr. E. J. Goodspeed, two courses in the New Testament; Professor George B. Foster, three courses in systematic theology. Professor Henry C. King, of Oberlin, will give twelve lectures upon "Theology and the Social Consciousness."

At Devil's Lake, N. D., July 6-20, Professor E. L. Parks, of Atlanta University, will give daily class work on "Christ's Discourse on the Destruction of Jerusalem and the End of the World," and on the "Revelation of John." Five lectures and conferences upon "Systematic Bible Study" will also be given by him.

At Delavan, Wis., July 31-August 10, Professor Sylvester Burnham, of Hamilton Theological Seminary, Colgate University, will give daily devotional studies upon "The Kingdom of God," and class studies upon "The Ministry and the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah."

At Grove City, Pa., August 1-10, Professor George L. Robinson will give daily Bible work in connection with the Bible conference to be held at that place.

At Huron, S. D., July 2-10, Professor Robinson will give daily book studies in connection with the South Dakota Epworth Assembly.

At Harvard University summer school, July 11-17, Professor Henry C. King will give six lectures upon "The Seeming Unreality of the Spiritual Life." Professor George B. Foster, of the University of Chicago, will give six lectures upon the subject, "Is Christianity the Ultimate Religion?"

At Lakeside, O., August 20-31, Professor King, in connection with Professor Bosworth, of Oberlin, will conduct a Bible institute, the general subject being "The Spirit and Method of Jesus." Professor King will give ten studies in the synoptic gospels, and will conduct five devotional hours upon the general theme, "The Conditions of Deepening Acquaintance with God." Professor Bosworth will give ten studies in "The Gospel of John," and five studies in the teachings of Jesus, under the title "Jesus' Conception of the Disciple and His Mission."

At Lake Madison, S. D., June 21-July 5, Professor E. L. Parks will give work, of which that at Devil's Lake, N. D., named above, is a duplicate.

At Ludington, Mich., July 25-August 3, Professor Shailer Mathews, of the University of Chicago, will give lectures upon "Systematic Bible Study," demonstrating the principles involved by studies from the Acts and the Galatians. He will also give a general lecture growing out of his recent trip to Palestine.

At Mount Vernon, O., July 27-31, Professor Lincoln Hulley will give daily studies in "The Minor Prophets." At the same place, July 21-26, Professor Sylvester Burnham will give daily lectures in "The Times and Ministry of the Prophet Jeremiah."

At Northfield, Mass., June 27-July 6, at the Northfield Conference of College Students, Professor Bosworth will give the course on the "Teaching of Jesus and His Apostles" named above in connection with the Asheville conference. He will also give a series of studies in the book of Acts at the Mount Hermon school. At the same conference Professor Henry C. King will give a series of studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

At Ocean Park, July 28-August 2, the Maine Ministers' Institute will be held. The COUNCIL OF SEVENTY is represented on the program by Professor A. W. Anthony, of Cobb Divinity School. He will lecture upon the theme, "What is Christianity?" At the same place,

August 5-12, Professor Anthony will give seven lectures upon special themes connected with the life of Christ.

At Silver Bay, Lake George, July 26-August 3, in a so-called "Council of the Forward Movement of Congregational Churches," the purpose of which is to stimulate the study of the Bible and the study of missions in the Congregational churches, Professor Bosworth will give a series of studies in "The Gospel of John," and will make an effort to introduce the systematic study of the Bible in the churches represented in the Council.

At Winfield, Kan., June 17-27, Professor George L. Robinson will give daily book studies in the Old Testament. He will also preach on the theme, "The Kingship of Christ," and lecture on "The Bible and Modern Discoveries."

Further announcements will be made in the *BIBLICAL WORLD* for July.